

# Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS



## FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

We still don't have any nominees for the offices of president and vice president. As stated earlier, the time involved in doing these jobs is but a couple of hours a month. Also, stated earlier, these offices can depend on plenty help from the former officers. I am not too sure how the club can function without these positions filled. Maybe we re-define our group to fit the realities facing us.

Decisions regarding the course of the club next year are going to have to be made, so its very important that we get a good turn out for the next meeting. The meeting location is the Sonoma Police Dept. EOC.

We have an antenna project coming up that will involve the modifying the club's G5RV antennas to Carolina Windoms. Its been our experience at Field Day that the Windoms outperform the G5RV's. We will find a weekend and do the work at Darrel's hangar, so we will keep you informed of the time and date.

We also plan to purchase a 80 meter Carolina Windom. On that same note, we may have some help from the Sonoma fire station to put the wire antenna at the EOC.

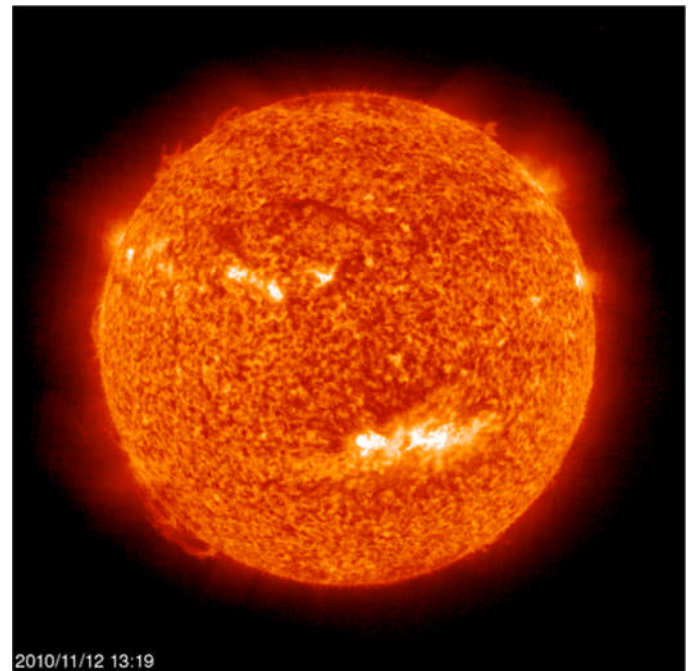
Thanks to Darrel, Dave, Ken, the wiring at the EOC has been "cleaned up" and an extension made so that the HF radio can get power.

Happy to report that the 15meter band is coming to life lately, especially in the afternoon.

Mark your calendars for December the 8th, the club Xmas party at Mary's Pizza Shack. There will be no regular meeting.

Have fun and enjoy the hobby.

73, Jim



## SUN SPOTS PICKING UP

This image was made from data gathered by NASA's SOHO (solar and heliospheric observatory). The "camera" is called the Extreme ultraviolet Imaging telescope. What we are seeing are false colors.

The bright areas are the sunspots.

For more detail, go

to [http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/data/realtime/eit\\_304/512/](http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/data/realtime/eit_304/512/)

## ON CALL

On Saturday morning, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, ACS held a call-out exercise. I started the SOP telephone list at 0915 and reached three others on the list (one in each color group) who made the calls to the next in line. The message was that this was a drill and to come up on the AA6GV repeater at 1145 for a brief net. Jim, K6UUW, Marty, KI6RTP, Mike, WB6TMH, Rachel, KI6DHG, me at W6AJF/EOC and Dick, KF6FZM, all came up on the net which was secured in a few minutes. Sam, W5LTP, also participated in the call-out but was not able to be on the air for the net due to other commitments. Thanks to all for being there.

On Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, Jim, K6UUW, and I conducted some radio tests to see how the path between the EOC and Sonoma Skypark was for low-power VHF. Of course, the signals through the 146.205 and 146.730 repeaters were good with Jim at Skypark and me at the EOC. With a HT and standing on the second floor of the airport building, Jim was good copy at the EOC. We tried simplex HT to EOC on 146.565 and 147.480 and both worked although it helped if Jim had a "hot spot" when trying this path. Later, I went out to the parking lot at the Sonoma EOC and tried my HT to Jim at the airport and it did work to our surprise. I connected my 5-watt HT to my mobile antenna and we worked from Jim's mobile to me standing by my vehicle as he drove back to town. We decided it would be handy to have a written document in the EOC telling us how various simplex paths between facilities worked in case repeaters failed in an emergency.

The Great Shakeout event was held the next day, Thursday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>. Darrel, WD6BOR, and Jim, K6UUW, were at the airport when the event started. I was at the EOC with Pat, KE6LLN, to operate there as NCS. The EOC was staffed by City staff at the time of the event and they discussed various reactions to possible emergency situations. We advised the staff that ACS had aerial observation capability with radio contact. ACS was given the mission to have the large Valley of the Moon Water District water tank near Hanna Center aeri-ally

inspected. This mission was passed to Skypark on 146.565 and the airplane (Tactical call - "Eagle eye") was launched with Darrel at the controls and Jim as the observer/radio operator. They reported in after take-off at 1000' altitude and were replying to the EOC with a message within about ten minutes of the take-off. With this successful mission, we had time for another and we were asked to send 'Eagle-eye' over the Watmaugh bridge for a report. This was accomplished in 5-6 minutes of the aircraft being given this second mission. Thanks to preparation and good flying, we showed that local aviation and amateur radio could definitely contribute to solving problems during a disaster.

Ken McTaggart N6KM, Sonoma Valley ACS Unit Leader.

## D-STAR Used To Send Airborne Pictures

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

During the 2010 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) in Gwinnett County, Georgia, ARES members tested sending photos from an airplane via D-STAR's high speed data (DD mode) capability on 1.2 GHz. The test confirmed the capability of taking pictures while airborne and sending them back in near real time to a Web site for storage and viewing. File sizes for the photos ranged from 75 KB to 250KB for medium resolution images. Transmission times were in the 10 to 30 second timeframe. The plane, piloted by Paul Branson, KA4YZR, was flown from Lawrenceville, Georgia to the east side of Athens, Georgia about 50 miles away. Photos were taken along the way by Scott Hartlage, KF4PWI, and sent back through the WD4STR D-STAR repeater. The signal strength confirmed link calculations that reliable transmission could occur out to at least 100 miles from the air.

Gwinnett ARES tested the concept to provide the capability to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) for quick aerial surveys of disaster areas and other immediate photo needs. The ICOM ID-1 radios aboard the

airplane send the photo files via 128 KB IP connection to any of the D-STAR repeaters located around the state.

A statewide network of fully equipped D-STAR repeaters is being installed at Georgia Public Broadcasting sites across Georgia. Multi-band antennas have been installed on each of the tall television towers. Once fully operational later this year, D-STAR voice and data communications will be available near statewide for emergency communications. --

[John A. Davis, WB4QDX](#), Emergency Coordinator, Gwinnett (GA) ARES, District Emergency Coordinator

### CONTEST CALENDAR

Nov 20-22 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB

Nov 27-28 CQ WW DX CW

Dec 3-5 ARRL 160 meter Contest

Dec 11-12 ARRL 10 meter Contest

Dec 18-19 Stew Perry Topband Challenge

### NEW SATELLITE ANNOUNCED BY AMSAT

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

The development and next year's scheduled launch of [ARISSat-1](#) were the main topics of discussion at the 2010 [AMSAT-NA](#) Space Symposium and Annual Meeting, held October 8-10, 2010, in Elk Grove, Illinois. ARISSat-1 has been delivered to NASA to undergo final preparations for delivery to the International Space Station ([ISS](#)). ARISSat-1 is scheduled to be manually released into orbit during an ISS spacewalk early next year.

ARISSat-1 will feature an inverting linear transponder with uplink at 435.742-435.758 MHz and downlink at 145.922-145.938 MHz. FM voice announcements, SSTV and telemetry will be downlinked at 145.95 MHz; BPSK1000 data will be sent at 145.920 MHz. A CW beacon -- identifying as RS01S -- will transmit at 145.921 MHz. The satellite's lifespan before reentry is uncertain, but likely to be around nine months, lasting through most of 2011, assuming it is released as scheduled.

## NEW AMATEUR SATELLITE

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

Earlier this year, astronauts living on the International Space Station had to discard two surplus Orlan space suits. With the loss of the suits, those involved with AMSAT and Amateur Radio on the International Space Station were at a loss. One of these suits was to be used to house the electronics for the upcoming SuitSat-2 mission: the batteries were to be mounted inside the suit, solar panels attached to the extremities with the electronics, with video cameras and an antenna mounted on the helmet. But even though the removal of the space suits took away the "Suit" component of the deployment, AMSAT and ARISS forged ahead, changing the configuration of the satellite and Amateur Radio experiment and giving it a new name: ARISSat-1/RadioSkaf-V. ( There has been one another attempt to use discarded space suits for Amateur Satellites)

Taken from the ARRL Newsletter

## Field Day 2010 Results Are In

—submitted by Dave KD6FIL

The results from Field Day 2010 are posted on the ARRL website at:

[http://www.arrl.org/results-database?fd\\_category=&fd\\_power=&fd\\_sect=&ss\\_call=&sort0=&sort1=&sort2=&event\\_id=13655](http://www.arrl.org/results-database?fd_category=&fd_power=&fd_sect=&ss_call=&sort0=&sort1=&sort2=&event_id=13655)

VOMARC had a score of 1730 with 381 contacts. Not bad. In the San Francisco Section we came in second behind the big guns of the Redwood DX club. They only bested us by about 9000 points and 2800 contacts. ([http://www.arrl.org/results-database?fd\\_category=3A&fd\\_power=&fd\\_sect=SF&ss\\_call=&sort0=&sort1=&sort2=&event\\_id=13655](http://www.arrl.org/results-database?fd_category=3A&fd_power=&fd_sect=SF&ss_call=&sort0=&sort1=&sort2=&event_id=13655)) With a little work we might get there sometime. Unfortunately, that could seriously cut into meal times and I am not sure that will work for the club. We ranked 221 out of 343 in the "3A" class stations in the nations. ([http://www.arrl.org/results-database?event\\_id=13655&fd\\_category=3A&fst=200](http://www.arrl.org/results-database?event_id=13655&fd_category=3A&fst=200))

Field Day was a lot of fun and is scheduled for June 25 and 26 in 2011. We will be up at Camp Via again. Mark it on your calendar and I hope to see you up there operating.

### 2010/11 ACS Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR
JANUARY	EILEEN	KG6QNT
FEBRUARY		
MARCH		
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE		

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### THE VOMARC WIRELESS VOLUME 14 EDITION 11

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon  
Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Dave Dammuller KD6FIL — Vice-President,

Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary

Marty Nemiroff, KI6RTP – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Joel Nadler, NN6J – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after  
benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire Station on 2<sup>nd</sup> St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:** <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:  
Eileen@vom.com

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

c/o Sonoma Police Department  
175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476

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**THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS NOVEMBER 17, 2010 AT 7:30PM AT THE CITY OF SONOMA  
EOC, SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, 175 1<sup>ST</sup> ST W, SONOMA.  
SEE YOU THERE.**

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#### **VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2010**    Membership Dues:   \$15/year individual;      \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).  
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Complimentary with Class--Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Membership Moment, From the Database Queen**

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Marty KI6RTP, 20829 Via Colombard, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at [Eileen@vom.com](mailto:Eileen@vom.com). Your check should be made payable to:

**VOMARC.**